

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An alternator for use in an automotive vehicle, the alternator comprising:

an armature having multi-phase windings generating alternating current therein;

a rectifier having a plurality of rectifier elements for rectifying the alternating current into direct current and a phase terminal connected to one of the multi-phase windings, the phase terminal extending from the rectifier; and

a voltage regulator for controlling voltage generated in the armature, the voltage regulator including a detector terminal connected to the phase terminal, wherein:

the detector terminal is bent in a U-shape thereby forming a first portion extending from the voltage regulator, a second portion positioned in parallel to the first portion, and a U-shaped portion positioned between the first and the second portions;

the phase terminal is sandwiched between the first and the second portions of the detector terminal and is welded to the detector terminal by resistance welding; and

a slit window is formed in the detector terminal, so that an amount of current, bypassing the phase terminal, flowing through the first portion, the U-shaped portion and the second portion in a process of the resistance welding is suppressed by the slit window.

2. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:

the slit window is formed in the U-shaped portion of the detector terminal.

3. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:

the slit window is formed in the first portion of the detector terminal.

4. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:

the slit window is formed in the second portion of the detector terminal.

5. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:

a contacting area of the phase terminal to the detector terminal is larger than a cross-sectional area of the detector terminal at a position where the slit window is located.

6. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:

the detector terminal is formed by laminating a plurality of plates.

7. The alternator as in claim 1, wherein:

the detector terminal is made of a material having an electrical resistance lower than that of a ferrous material.